

TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS

***Disclaimer – the following information is intended solely as a guideline for those petitioning the court for termination of parental rights. It is not meant to be legal advice, nor is it legal advice. The following information does not remove from the petitioner the responsibility to research and comply with all applicable statutory requirements for filing and processing a termination of parental rights action. Should you have specific legal questions concerning the filing of a termination of parental rights action, the procedures, or legal requirements related to the filing of a termination of parental rights action, you may wish to consult with an attorney.**

1. The necessary forms for commencing a termination of parental rights action (see below) can be purchased for \$5 or can be found by visiting www.wicourts.gov. Once at the site, select “Forms”, then from the dropdown menu select “Circuit Court Forms”, then “Juvenile Forms” and finally “Termination of Parental Rights”.
 - Petition for Termination of Parental Rights (JC - 1630)
 - Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act Affidavit (GF -150)
 - Order Appointing Guardian ad Litem (GF – 131)
 - Summons (Termination of Parental Rights) (JC -1633)
 - Consent to Termination of Parental Rights (if applicable) (JC – 1636 or JC - 1637)
 - Consent to Use Mother’s Name for Publication (if applicable) (JC - 1634)
2. Complete the necessary forms and file the documents with the Register in Probate. Upon filing and approval, the probate staff will indicate a date and time that the petition for termination of parental rights will be heard. **The petitioner is responsible for serving the necessary paperwork at least 10 days prior to the hearing. If publication is necessary, petitioner is responsible for publishing a Class 1 notice at least 7 days prior to the hearing. Petitioner should review Wis. Stat. §48.42. Failure to provide the required notice to all interested persons will deprive the court of jurisdiction unless notice is waived by the interested person. Once service is effectuated, the petitioner shall file the Affidavits of Service with the Register in Probate Office.**
3. A guardian ad litem will need to be appointed to represent the minor’s best interest. The petitioner is responsible for securing the guardian ad litem representation. The petitioner is financially responsible for services provided by the guardian ad litem.
4. At least three days prior to the hearing, the petitioner shall file:
 - Affidavit of Service
 - Proof of Publication (if applicable)
 - *Proposed* Order Concerning Termination of Parental Rights (JC - 1638 or JC – 1639)

Copy fee: \$1 per page. Certification fee: \$3.

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT COURT STAFF CANNOT GIVE LEGAL ADVICE OR ASSISTANCE. If you do not understand how to prepare the forms or how to properly serve notice to the parties, you are advised to obtain legal help.